NEWS RELEASE July 21, 2003

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OPEN HOUSES TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGE IN MINING REGULATIONS

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will hold a series of public open houses to present, discuss and take comment on draft rules that regulate the inspection of mining operations, enforcement of mining rules and how small mining operations are bonded. The division is developing these rules because of recent legislative changes to the mining statute.

"We're seeking constructive input and feedback before the proposed rules are presented to the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining for approval," said Mary Ann Wright, associate director for mining. "We encourage all interested parties to attend and gain an understanding of the proposed rules."

All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last about one hour. Draft Inspection and Enforcement rules may be viewed by looking at the Quick Reference on the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining web page at www.ogm.utah.gov. Additional information regarding the meetings can also be obtained by calling the division at 801-538-5304.

The meetings are scheduled on the following dates and at the locations noted:

Tuesday, July 29 Department of Natural Resources Auditorium 1594 West North Temple Salt Lake City, Utah

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Thursday, August 14

Tuesday, August 5 Cedar City Corporation 10 North Main Street Cedar City, Utah

Thursday, August 14 Vernal City Offices 447 East Main Vernal, Utah

Thursday, August 7

Grand County Courthouse 125 East Center Street

Wednesday, August 6 Administration Building 250 North Main Street Richfield, Utah